



John B. "Jack" Keetley, for whom the community of Keetley was named.

the years of construction of the Ontario-Daly Drain Tunnel remember "Jack" Keetley for his kindness to them as they romped over the hills under which his men were digging. Years later, George A. Fisher, prominent cattleman and land developer, named the community which developed in the valley below the mining project, Keetley, in honor of his "childhood hero."

The Keetley area was first prospected around 1875 and 1876. When David Keith and Thomas Kearns were prospecting in the mountains that produced the great mines of Park City, their fellow prospector, David Fisher, turned south and laid claim to the "Columbus," a tract which



George A. Fisher, who named the town of Keetley, and was its mayor.

was later incorporated with other holdings to form the "Star of Utah," which in turn became the New Park Mine.

The first major effort to produce ore in Wasatch County was the McCune Tunnel. This was driven into the mountains west of Keetley before the turn of the century, but to no avail. About the same time the McHenry Shaft was sunk in the same area, but the unfortunate prospectors, it was later discovered, missed a vast vein of ore by only 18 feet.

Another mining adventure, The St. Louis-Ontario, was conducted directly above the spot where the portal of the drain tunnel was later placed. This project also failed, perhaps because it was focused too high on the Blue Ledge slope.

In spite of these failures, the lure of gold and other precious metals enchanted many and prospecting continued. In the early 1900's the East Utah shaft was sunk, and modest fortunes sank with it. In 1905 the Columbus Tract on Bonanza Flat was worked until lack of capital ended the venture.

Further down the slope in the Glen Allen, sometimes known as the "Glencoe" excavation, hundreds of thousands of dollars were invested in determined efforts to locate pay dirt. A refining mill was constructed on the property through which discovered ore was reduced to concentrate. In 1907 John Fisher and Gail Fisher took a contract to transport this refined ore from the mill to the Denver and Rio Grande Depot in Heber City, a distance of about 12 miles. However, the Allen fortune was spent before the coveted silver vein was located.

The project "Vallejo" lay further south in the mountains west of Jordanelle, and was worked intermittently for several years, even though a heavy percentage of iron in the ore made transportation a serious problem.

William Trevithick and John Fisher leased the Vallejo property and supplied work for many Wasatch County miners and teamsters until this venture too ended in disaster. George McDonald, one of the teamsters, was headed toward Heber City with a wagon load of ore and when he drove onto the Provo River bridge northwest of the present Heber Light and Power plant, the bridge buckled, sending him and half his wagon one way and the team and the rest of the wagon and ore the other way. Mr. McDonald escaped alive, but the wagon and team were lost, and the bridge was gone. Because the ore from Vallejo could not command sufficient price to warrant construction of a new bridge and better road, the project failed.

Another persistent attempt at prospecting for ore in northern Wasatch County was the Nelson-Green, which was located in rolling hills some two miles east of Lee's Ranch. After several years of effort, the Nelson Brothers of Park City sold the property to Daniel Knold, who renamed it the Park Knold, and continued to work his claim with some profit.

The major mining development in the Keetley area began about 1921 when the Park Utah Mining Company was formed. The company con-



Oscar N. Friendly, prominent mining executive who was largely responsible for pin-pointing the underground wealth.

ducted systematic development work by which one of the richest ore bodies in Wasatch County was discovered. During the 1920's alone this company paid nearly three million dollars worth of dividends.

One of the persons largely responsible for pin-pointing this wealth near Keetley was Oscar N. Friendly, a native of Oregon who studied mining engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. During his summer vacation periods he worked at the old Highland Boy mine in Salt Lake's Bingham District, and also at the Daly West mine in Park City. His first full time job after graduation in 1907 was an engineer-surveyor for the Daly West property. In 1909 he became engineer and geologist for the Daly Judge Mining Co., the firm which later was the nucleus of the Park Utah Mining Company.

George W. Lambourne, head of the Daly Judge firm asked Mr. Friendly to work on classification of rock formations in the Keetley area, and it was through this work that Mr. Friendly found there was more than one occurrence of ore in the area. His development work disclosed ore bodies extending through much of the region.

Another major developer of the area was Paul H. Hunt, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a California schoolmate of Mr. Friendly. He served as general manager of the Park Utah Mining Company, and then in 1925 when the Judge, Daly West, Park Utah, Ontario and other properties were merged to form the Park Utah Consolidated Mining Co., Mr. Hunt was named manager and Mr. Friendly assistant general manager.

In addition to his leadership in mining, Mr. Hunt was also a member of the Wasatch County Commission and served in both houses of the Utah Legislature. He was also founder and president of the Associated Civic Clubs of Northern Utah. He retired from mining in 1955 and died in California on April 17, 1958.

As the Park Utah Mining Company was doing its development work in the 1920's in the Blue Ledge area, those owning claims on the



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south side of McHenry Canyon made concentrated efforts to reach hidden treasures they all felt lay in the mountain ranges.

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decided to settle in the new area. He brought his family from Park City and settled in one of the nine houses along the ridge of the hill east of the mine building. Other homes were occupied by Archie Henderson, Will O'Brien, William Luke, Roy Pettie, Paul Hunt, William Fife, Ralph Stringham and George D. Blood. Later a house was built on the side of the road going down the ridge. Frank Hyde and later Harry Wallace, superintendent of the Park Utah Consolidated Mines, lived in this home. Another five families built homes in the canyon back of the mine building. These were Charles Welch, Al Ross, E. A. Hewitt, Robert Hyde and William Haueter. Mine buildings included an office, shops, boiler room, boarding house, commissary and two bunk houses. Later, two more bunk houses were built to accommodate the 500 to 600 men who came to the area in its boom days.

George A. Fisher, who did much of the land development in the area, supervised most of Keetley's growth. He built five modern homes, a combination store and gas station, and later an apartment house. He served as mayor of Keetley from the 1920's until his death in July, 1954. As mayor he directed the erection of an imposing school building.

Mr. Fisher, as mentioned earlier, also named the community in honor of Jack Keetley. This name created an interesting condition when postal service was inaugurated in the summer of 1923. Charles Roy Lenzi was named as postmaster and the service was very well received in the community. However, George Blood, acting superintendent of mines, discovered in the official community records that the town's name had been incorrectly recorded as "Keatley." A sign had even been placed over the post office with this incorrect spelling.

When the error was brought to the attention of the Postmaster General in Washington, he had to cancel the appointment of Charles Lenzi as postmaster, then recorded the name correctly and reappointed Mr. Lenzi as postmaster. This was done in November, 1923. Mr. Lenzi served continuously as Keetley's postmaster until 1952 when he retired and the post office was discontinued.



Charles Roy Lenzi,
postmaster of Keetley
from 1923 to 1952.



and Lettie Lenzi, his
wife and assistant
postmaster.